

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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EDITOR

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QUESTIONS THAT NEED ANSWER.

Ugly rumors have surrounded the construction of Piers 8, 9 and 10 almost since the work began, and the decision of the harbor board to name three "outside" experts to investigate the conditions is the right decision. The fees of the experts will be comparatively small in proportion to the importance of their investigation.

The "lie" incident at a board meeting a few days ago, with its startling turn yesterday when a territorial inspector's confession of his own falsehood was put on the records, adds to the need for an investigation by men connected neither with the contractor nor with the office of superintendent of public works. Here was a trusted employee employed for years by the territory who covered up a lie for many weeks and whose falsehood put both the board and particularly its chairman, Superintendent Forbes, in a most unfortunate position. Morgan's confession pertains only to the "bulge" of five inches in Pier 9 bulkhead. But there are other matters in dispute between the contractor and the superintendent. How far has the latter been deceived in these? Have other lies been told, other facts covered up? How closely is the contractor adhering to specifications? Particularly, how came it that he was allowed to dump a soft "fill" behind the wall before it was properly braced in front—thus making the "bulge" possible. What concessions have been made by the superintendent of public works?

The board is exactly right in its determination to go to the bottom of these questions. If Forbes was misled by the statement of an employee into an egregious error, has he been misled on other important points?

THE CASE OF THE ALLIES.

President Wilson has made a move to sound the belligerents as to the demands which they are fighting to enforce. He took his action after Germany, by proposing peace, had made the possibility of peace negotiations an issue that the most powerful of neutral nations could not in justice and humanity ignore.

The English papers, bitter as they are in their denunciations of Germany, sharp as they are in criticism of Mr. Wilson, recognize this. After the first German proposal was made public, the London Daily News said:

"The Allies cannot enter into peace negotiations on the basis of the Bethmann-Hollweg offers, but they must put their case before the enemy and before the world. They must state the terms on which they are prepared to negotiate and throw on Germany the responsibility of rejecting or accepting that basis of negotiation. A mere non possumus will be a fatal mistake. It will be the greatest diplomatic victory Germany has achieved in the war. We must not permit her to have that victory."

Perusal of this is respectfully recommended to some of the local critics of the president.

BEACH OBSTRUCTIONS.

The attorney-general has rendered the harbor board a clear opinion on the matter of "illegal obstructions" on the beach, and the harbor board now plans a crusade against such obstructions. Success to it!

The attorney-general holds, in effect, that any artificial obstruction to travel between high and low tide is illegal, and that the board, having authority over the entire waterfront, has power to order such obstructions removed.

Several fences and walls on Waikiki beach are said to be illegal, under this ruling. More than a year ago the superintendent of public works was going to see that they were removed, but somehow nothing was done. If we understand the temper of the other members of the board, they will not now stop short of action. Each year as larger crowds patronize the beach, and as the residence districts back from the beach build up, these obstructions become more of a nuisance. The people have few enough places of access to the beach, and those which are rightfully the public's should be maintained for it by every vigor of official action.

DR. CLARK ON LABOR ARBITRATION.

Some mention has been made in Honolulu of a plan to introduce in the coming session of the legislature a bill providing for compulsory arbitration to avert strikes. It is interesting to note that Dr. Victor S. Clark, former federal investigator and census expert, and well-known in Hawaii from several years' residence here, thinks the Canadian law is perhaps the best in existence.

Dr. Clark was a speaker at the session of the National Council of the Chamber of Commerce in Washington last month, the session being devoted to the railroad labor and allied problems. The discussion revolved freely around the question of how to prevent strikes and lockouts. Several views were presented, all of them favoring arbitration in some form.

Compulsory arbitration as a possible remedy was touched on in a discussion of the Canadian industrial disputes act by Dr. Clark, who is now of the Carnegie Institution and was formerly United States government investigator of railroad labor conditions in Canada, Australia and New Zealand. He said that while there is no panacea for strikes, the Cana-

dian law is, perhaps, the most successful effort that has been made to mitigate their evils.

The law provides for a board consisting of a representative of the workers, a representative of the employers, and of a third man who is chairman. The function of the board is to bring the opposing parties to a voluntary agreement, or, if that is impossible, to report all of the facts so that the public may be informed as to the cause of the threatened strike.

CHRISTMAS TREE MILESTONES.

The Star-Bulletin is particularly glad that the Boys' Industrial School is going to have a Merry Christmas tonight.

Something more than a year ago this paper felt its duty to be a vigorous exposure of conditions at the school under the then administration, and as vigorous a demand for a change in superintendents and a square deal for the boys imprisoned—it was a prison then—in this corrective institution.

A new superintendent, Mr. Frederick Anderson, was installed, the board of industrial school commissioners, taking hold at the first of this year, helped to inaugurate many changes, and today the school is doing a fine and useful work. It has a cadet corps, a band, athletic teams, a successful honor system. Boys coming from its influence are already showing themselves able to get down to work and make something of themselves in this world. The attention attracted to the school by the recital of conditions last year has worked what one spectator describes as a revolution this year.

A year ago at Christmas time the boys of the industrial school were given the first evidence in a long, long time that the outside world cared one whit whether they lived or died. They were given a Christmas tree. It is to be repeated this year. The year that has elapsed has been one of fine progress for this school, a progress which the Star-Bulletin is very glad indeed to mention.

Measured by these milestones of Christmas trees, the school is going forward faster than merely the elapse of time would show.

Will some men ever learn how ridiculous it is to try and beat the law? Can it ever be pounded into their thick numbskulls that over one hundred million people are lined up to crush every illegal effort attempted? Does it seem possible that men with brains, intelligent, able fellows, can lose sight of the overwhelming odds that are placed against them when they determine to follow criminal pursuits? One chance in a hundred million to get away with it! Think of it! How much better it is to secure the good will and cooperation of the one hundred million American citizens, than to have them banish you from their midst. It's an unbeatable game, fellows!—Leavenworth (Penitentiary) New Era.

Locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen is a favorite occupation of the U. S. government. For years there has been a steadily-increasing protest against the steadily-increasing high cost of living and only now is the government showing any signs of real activity. Chicago's suffering during the cold weather is needless. There is plenty of coal in the country and plenty of transportation for it, and if some of our so-called statesmen deserve their titles they should ere this have remedied a situation easily foreseen a year ago.

Taking a leaf from Europe's book, an American naval officer imposed a strict censorship when Uncle Sam stepped in recently to spank Santo Domingo. There was no reason for the censorship, but it went on anyway. Later the department instructed the officer differently, but meanwhile he had given an exhibition of the martinet white out of place in the American navy or anything else American.

This is President Wilson's birthday. One year ago today he had strong demands for submarine reparations pending before Germany and Austria. (P. S. They are still pending.)

Somehow the Belgians refuse to appreciate all that Germany is doing in their behalf. Will they never get reconciled to the "scrap of paper" system?

President Wilson recently attended the movies for the first time in his life. Another proof that the Democratic leader is growing more and more progressive.

Surprisingly little is said by the British officials concerning the loss of the great steamer Britannic. Details have not yet been given. Why not?

It's going to take a British tank up Puunui way to capture that sixteenth hole.

"Russians Will Use Diplomacy in Persia." Rather a change in tactics.

Definition of an optimist: The man who calls it liquid sunshine.

Peace at any price—the other fellow can be made to pay.

Notice how fast Villa is being eliminated?

This weather is fast getting to be a habit.

NOTED AUTHORITY THINKS GERMAN PROPOSALS OFFER BASIS TO GO ON

Dr. Stowell, Reviewing Situation, Says, However, Obstacles to Peace Are Many

That the German peace proposals offer a basis for negotiations is the opinion of one of America's leaders in international law—Dr. Eliery C. Stowell of Columbia university. In a statement to the New York World he said:

"It is announced in the press that Germany has transmitted to her enemies the terms upon which the central powers are willing to make peace. It is safe to say that this message will bring joy to every nation in the world, whatever interpretation they may place upon the terms which Germany offers."

Can Propose Reasonable Terms

"Germany's military successes have made it possible for her to propose reasonable terms for a permanent peace without a loss of prestige, which no country will willingly incur. On the other hand, the announced purpose of the Entente allies to carry on the war solely for the purpose of defeating Europe against the dangers of German domination would make it difficult for them to refuse a sympathetic consideration of any reasonable terms proposed by their adversaries."

"Under the circumstances, therefore, we may feel sure that the Entente allies, if they should be unwilling to consider the German proposal, will base their objection upon the ground that Germany's offer is too extravagant for serious consideration."

"If we would understand the international situation which will determine the course of any subsequent negotiations for peace we must remember:

"(1) That Germany's victory in Rumania has brought her an enormous accession of prestige. If peace should intervene tomorrow the world would constantly remember her tremendous economic and military achievements, so that she would acquire an enormous advantage in the world competition for the increase of political influence and the acquisition of new markets."

Probably Can Gain No More

"(2) Germany has now probably reached the greatest extension of her territorial gain, so that she can afford to offer a reasonable concession in the hopes of retaining some of the advantages that she would probably have to give up in the event of a long struggle."

"(3) Great Britain and the Entente allies, on the other hand, have suffered a loss of prestige corresponding to the German gain, so that they may not be willing now to make as favorable terms as they might later, after they had recovered from their discomfiture, for prestige is the all-important factor in international affairs. Pacifist writers leave it out of account and reach wonderful results satisfactory to themselves but having no relation to practical politics."

"(4) The recent reorganization of the British cabinet and a similar action announced for France will make it possible for the Entente allies to conduct the war with a vigor many times increased. The significance of the transformation which has brought about this result is so well recognized by Germany that she must offer even now much better terms than she would have done had the former organization of the British government continued."

Germany's Maximum Terms

"Certain of the terms proposed by Germany have been communicated to the press from a 'reliable' source. It is not necessary to repeat them or to examine them in detail. They are, of course, Germany's maximum, which she puts forth as a basis for discussion. As I examine them they strike me as absolutely unacceptable for the allies, but I believe that the fact that Germany has made any proposals must indicate a probable intention on her part to discuss with her adversaries any counter proposals which might appear as reasonable to impartial observers."

"The greatest danger that the present proposal may fall through lies in the possibility that the Entente powers cannot accept peace at the end of such a series of misfortunes as has attended their arms. I believe, however, that they have everything to gain from the conclusion of a peace if Germany is really ready to offer them an acceptable basis, such as the status quo ante; that is to say, the condition existing before the war. Upon such a basis Germany's tremendous strength and her theory of government would continue to challenge

the opposition of the rest of the civilized world."

Another Period of Armed Peace

"This country would inevitably form a species of entente with the allies and build up its military organization to defend itself against the superior power or influence of Germany. England, France and the United States would have been taught by Germany's example to improve the efficiency of their methods. They will one and all maintain their armaments upon a high level of preparation. This will mean that the world will enter upon another period of armed peace, but the adjustment will be more perfect and the horrible experience of this disastrous war will be more vivid, so that the world may count upon many a long year of peace."

"It is possible one might say probable, that Russia might gravitate toward the Teuton group, bringing in her train far-off Japan, but this would only leave the world divided into two great groups of powers. It would be the prolongation on a colossal scale of Bismarck's remark about the land rat and the water rat. England, France and the United States would control all over-sea possessions, while Germany would dominate the continental development of the Near and Far East."

Things Entente Would Insist On

"Whether there be any foundation for such speculations or not, the Entente allies will not be excused by humanity and by posterity if they assume the responsibility for the prolongation of the war in the face of reasonable peace proposals. The exaction and indemnification of all the occupied territories held by Belgium would appear to be a sine qua non of any serious discussion of the terms of peace. Germany and Austria would, of course, receive back the territory taken from them in the colonies and elsewhere."

"In the course of the peace negotiations it might prove possible to make certain modifications of frontier to eliminate future causes of conflict. Until we have more information in regard to the seriously proposed terms of the two groups, it is not worth while to attempt to discuss them. Germany has made the preliminary proposal."

"Let us hope that she will make her terms so reasonable that her adversaries will not dare to brave public opinion by refusing them. Even if they do not agree at once, in the course of negotiations all parties may reach a state of mind when they will be ready to meet concession by concession, rather than return again to the horrors of war."

LETTERS

NOT DUE TO THE SOLDIERS

Schofield Barracks, T. H., December 25, 1916.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: My attention has been called to a statement in your valuable paper under date of December 14, 1916, supposed to have been made by Mr. W. R. Castle, reference "Saddling of Iwilei on Honolulu." Would you be so kind as to allow space for a few words by one who honestly thinks that Mr. Castle is wrong?

In the first place Honolulu has been burdened with a restricted district since long before Fort Shafter or Schofield Barracks existed. I know that in 1898 and in 1904 it had one, and to be exact a very flourishing one. If I am not mistaken it was wiped out once by fire; yet in some manner it "saddled" the city again.

Now for the life of me I can't understand why Mr. Castle should make such a remark.

Now I think that every one will admit that the soldiers did not burden Honolulu with a restricted district (because it was there long before the soldiers arrived here for station). That being admitted, the truth, etc., why should Mr. Castle desire to wish it off on Fort Shafter or Schofield Barracks, where the pride of home and family is as great as any in Honolulu can boast?

It seems but fair to say that Honolulu in getting rid of its restricted district should make every effort to find a proper place to dump it, and also make endeavor to enslave the same sentiment among its citizens.

Very respectfully,
JOSEPH G. RYE,
Regimental Sergeant Major, 1st Field Artillery.

William C. Williamson of Philadelphia, designer of the first steam steering apparatus for vessels, is dead. Domitric Dirigo of Pottsville, Pa., was electrocuted in the Rockview penitentiary for killing an ice cream vendor.

Announcement

The Governor of Hawaii will hold a Public Reception on

New Year's Day, January first, at his home, corner of

Lunalilo and Hackfeld Streets, from half-past two

o'clock to five o'clock p.m. A sincere invi-

tation is extended to the public and

visiting strangers.

No cards.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—SHERIFF ROSE: This has been about as strenuous a Christmas as the police have ever seen here.

—ALEXANDER LYLE: I don't say the rain is the most agreeable thing in the world but I wouldn't trade it for snow.

—VALENTINO MORONI, manager of the Moana hotel: Our dinner dance Tuesday night was well attended for the first affair of its kind here.

—SOLOMON MEMEULA: A good site for the Shearman telescope would be the round knoll on the ridge between Manoa and Palolo valleys, overlooking Waialae road.

—"DAD" HUTTON: I certainly was surprised to see young Gusemann go wrong again. He was one of the model inmates at the reform school and could get anything he wanted from his employer because of good work done.

—BISHOP HENRY B. RESTARICK: I recently sent to Captain McDuffie of the detectives a letter commending him on the quick arrest of the man who attempted to sack my house. It is with a good deal of pleasure that

I sprinkle a little sincere praise with cthers' condemnation.

—PRESIDENT AD CLUB: A late mail brought a Christmas greeting to the Ad Club from Judge and Mrs. W. H. Thomas of Santa Ana, Cal. Judge Thomas encloses a photo taken at the Volcano House and makes the notation, "In memory of two of the most pleasant weeks of my career."

—ROBERT C. LYDECKER: As librarian of the public archives I am hoping that the legislators will visit my office next February and really get acquainted with it. I am afraid that most of them have a very hazy idea of just what sort of a place this is. Recently I helped one member of the legislature in looking up an old land case that he had not been able to find elsewhere. I believe that the archives have saved the territory thousands of dollars since this building has been erected.

A device for coupling ordinary vehicles behind automobiles, so flexible that sharp corners can be turned, is the invention of an 18-year-old California boy.

Mrs. Mary Stark Rowell, 65, a direct descendant of Gen. John Stark, hero of the battle of Bennington in the Revolutionary War, was found dead in bed at her home in Grasmere, N. H.

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Kahala Beach Leasehold

One of the prettiest homes at Kahala is for sale. Lot has 120 ft. frontage on the beach. No longer merely a summer home, as many people spend their winters there.

A few home owners there are Messrs. Judd, Hobdy, Atherton, Lowrey, Cooper, McGrew, Dole, Cooke, etc.

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